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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Atsushi MAEDA
Serial No.: 09/768,472
Filed: January 25, 2001
For: A METHOD FOR BALANCING LOAD ON A PLURALITY OF SWITCHING APPARATUS
Group: 2154
Examiner: D. Chankong

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AUG 31 2004

Technology Center 2100

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 26, 2004

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 26, 2004, the period for reply thereto being extended one month by the attached Petition for Extension of Time to expire August 26, 2004, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2.

Remarks are included following the amendments.